

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Examiner Interview

At the outset, Applicant wishes to extend their appreciation for the courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the June 19, 2008 interview. A summary of the discussion and any agreements reached during the interview are incorporated into the following remarks.

Summary of Office Action

In the Office Action, beginning at page 3, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,010,847 to Braden (Braden'847) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,529,575 to Schalk (Schalk'575).

Summary of Response to Office Action

In Response to the February 28, 2008 Final Office Action, Applicant hereby amends claims 1 and 4. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-20 are currently pending, claim 2 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1 and 4 are the only pending independent claims.

All Claims Are Allowable

Claim 1 in this application is rejected under various provisions of U.S. law. Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are allowable for the specific reasons set forth below, and therefore requests issuance of this application.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, beginning at page 3, Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,010,847 to Braden (Braden'847).in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,529,575 to Schalk (Schalk'575). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and

requests reconsideration for the following reasons.

As discussed during the interview, neither Braden'847 nor Schalk'575 disclose or teach, either alone or in combination, the feature of a duct located entirely within the nipple, the duct including an outlet end located within the nipple to define the nipple tip portion between the outlet end of the duct and the nipple, as recited in claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 clearly defines over both Braden'847 and Schalk'575, either taken alone or in alleged combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

With regard to claim 4, this claim has been re-written in independent format to include features that should provide an alternate scope of protection for the invention. It is respectfully submitted that the claim and its dependent claims are in immediate form for allowance. Withdrawal of any rejections and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


Applicant respectfully submits that the present patent application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of this patent application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would expedite passage of this patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge fees

necessitated by this paper, and to credit all refunds and overpayments, to our Deposit Account listed on Applicant's initial application filing transmittal document.

Respectfully submitted,
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